

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 /089 W
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R 121330Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1135

E O 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV BQG
SUBJ: SOVIET PROTEST OVER DEUTSCHLAND LIED

REF: USBERLIN 1049

SUMMARY: ALLIES IN BERLIN HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NO FURTHER
ACTION IS NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROTEST ON
DEUTSCHLAND LIED. A HEATED DEBATE CONTINUES AMONG
BERLINERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN CONCUR IN BRITISH ANALYSIS
(REFTEL) OF SOVIET PROTEST ON DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT OF
"DEUTSCHLAND LIED" BY CDU CHARLOTTENBURG MUNICIPAL
COUNCILLOR FOR EDUCATION ROESELER. THERE IS NO DIS-
COVERABLE ALLIED PROHIBITION ON ANY OF THE SONG'S VERSES.
MISSIONS CONSIDER BRITISH PROTOCOL OFFICER'S ON-THE-SPOT
REPLY TO THE SOVIETS TO BE SUFFICIENT.

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2. ROESELER IS STILL BEING DRUBBED WITH SOME REGULARITY
BY VARIOUS SIDES FOR HIS ACTIONS, AS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY
BY THE PRESS. THE BERLIN COMMITTEE OF THE FDP CALLED
FOR ROESELER'S RESIGNATION. SENATOR FOR BUILDING AND HOUS-
ING HARRY RISTOCK (SPD) SAID THAT TO VIEW THE FIRST VERSE
OF THE DEUTSCHLAND LIED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS
"UNBEARABLE" (TAGESSPIEGEL, MAY 6). SENATOR FOR SCHOOLS

WALTER RASCH AND SENATOR FOR JUSTICE JUERGEN BAUMANN JOINED THE CRITICAL CHORUS. BERLIN CDU HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAUCUS CHAIRMAN HEINRICH LUMMER DISTANCED THE CDU FROM ROESELER WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT ROESELER HAD NOT "CONSULTED OR INFORMED" THE CDU ABOUT HIS ACTIONS. PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE PETER LORENZ INDICATED (TAGESSPIEGEL, MAY 11) THAT SCHOOL CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW THE FIRST TWO VERSES OF THE DEUTSCHLAND LIED AND THEIR HISTORICAL CONNECTION ALONG WITH THE CRITICAL EVALUATION BELONGING TO THEM. ROESELER HIMSELF HAS CLARIFIED HIS INTENTIONS WITH THE REMARK THAT "IT WAS AND IS FOR US SELF-EVIDENT THAT IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE SONG THE TEACHERS SHOULD MAKE REFERENCE TO THE MISUSE OF THE FIRST VERSE IN THE NAZI PERIOD."

3. THE FDP AND SPD CHARLOTTENBURG DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CAUCUSES REPORTEDLY HAVE DECLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR CDU ASSEMBLY COLLEAGUES ON A PLANNED AUTUMN TRIP TO ISRAEL BECAUSE OF ROESELER'S BEHAVIOR (TAGESSPIEGEL, MAY 11). LEADER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HEINZ GALINSKI HAS EXPRESSED THE CONCERN THAT THE FIRST VERSE OF THE DEUTSCHLAND LIED " COULD IGNITE RIGHT-RADICAL TENDENCIES." PRO-EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPER DIE WAHRHEIT INSINUATED MAY 10 THAT BERLIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (SENATORS RASCH AND BAUMANN AND SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE SAUBERZWEIG) WERE FLEEING FROM THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEIR OFFICES BY NOT

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DOING THEIR "DAMNED DUTY"--PRESUMABLY, SUPPRESSING ROESELER'S ACTIVITIES.

4. ON MAY 11, THE CHARLOTTENBURG MUNICIPAL CONCIL, INCLUDING ROESELER, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO WITHDRAW THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMPLETE THREE-VERSE TEXT OF THE DEUTSCHLAND LIED FROM DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

5. COMMENT: THIS AFFAIR HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF HEATED CLASHES IN THE GERMAN POLITICAL ARENA IN BERLIN. WE SUSPECT ROESELER'S BACKING DOWN WILL BRING AN END TO THE PUBLIC CONFLICT.DAVIS

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